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Boston University



Boston University
School of Medicine

News & Notes

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Issue #110

Board of Visitors hears faculty presentations, appoints new members

Twenty-eight members of the School of Medicine's Board of Visitors recently convened at the School for the Board's annual meeting. The day-long event featured presentations by BUSM faculty and a luncheon at which Board members could meet BUSM students.

Michael Holick, M.D., Ph.D., recently-appointed chief of the Endocrine Unit at Boston City Hospital, program director for BUSM's Clinical Research Center and a professor of medicine, discussed the applications of vitamin D for osteoporosis, psoriasis and cancer. Other talks included discussions on the Baby M case by George Annas, J.D., M.P.H., the Edward R. Utley Professor of Public Health (health law) and chief of the Health Law Section at the School of Public Health; the contributions of the Boston University-Framingham Heart Study by William Kannel, M.D., M.P.H., a professor of medicine and public health, chief of the University Hospital's Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology and former Study director; special problems in childhood acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) by George Lamb, M.D., a professor of pediatrics and public health; community-based violence prevention by Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine; and future trends in psychiatry by Louis Vachon, M.D., interim chairman of BUSM's Division of Psychiatry. Dean John I. Sandson reported on the state of the School.

Three new members were appointed this year to the 45-member Board, which is chaired by Elihu Rose, Ph.D.: Paul Brown, M.D., chairman and chief executive officer of SCI/MED Advances Corporation, a venture capital and management services concern located in Teaneck, N.J.; Carol Goldberg, president and chief operating officer of the Stop & Shop Companies, Inc., located in Quincy, Mass.; and Jack Radlo, president and chief executive officer of Radlo Bros., Inc., an agri-business company based in Medford, Mass., which specializes in the production, marketing and exporting of egg and poultry products. Radlo also is president of VICAM Corp., a Massachusetts biotechnology company that specializes in the development of tests for toxic substances in food and animal feed.

Israeli dean visits School to discuss Exchange Program funding

Dean John I. Sandson and Leonard Gottlieb, M.D., M.P.H., chairman of the Department of Pathology, recently welcomed Marcel Eliakim, M.D., dean of the Hebrew Univer-



BOARD OF VISITORS: Chairman Elihu Rose, Ph.D., discusses one of the lectures at BUSM's annual Board of Visitors meeting. (Photo by Gustav Freedman)

sity-Hadassah Medical School, who was at the School to discuss the endowment fund for BUSM's Faculty/Student Exchange Fellowship Program. (see photo on page 2)

The Program, now in its second year, allows students, faculty and administrators of both medical schools to visit each other's country, to learn about the differences in the medical systems in America and Israel, and to conduct research. Six BUSM students will travel to Jerusalem this year for one to two months, and, in October, two Hadassah Medical School students will come to BUSM for three months. In addition, Gottlieb recently was made an honorary faculty member at the Hadassah Medical School.

The Program was implemented after a delegation composed of Dean Sandson, Gottlieb, Ernest Blaustein, Ph.D., associate vice president for development at Boston University and director of the Six-Year Program, and Joseph Vitale, M.D., associate dean for international health, signed the formal agreement in Jerusalem in 1985.

According to Eliakim, the moving force behind the Program is Gottlieb, whose father, Julius Gottlieb, M.D., a member of BUSM's Class of 1924, was part of the American committee in 1947 that helped to form a national medical school in what was then Palestine. The school since has grown into the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School.

BUSM and MET College offer new degree program in biotechnology

In September, BUSM and the University's Metropolitan College will initiate a new degree program in the biomedical and clinical sciences. The program offers an Associate of Science or a Bachelor of Science degree to students on a part-time or full-time basis.

While there are some efforts being made to train individuals for biotechnical careers, this is the first time that a degree program in this relatively new field has been offered under the aegis of both an undergraduate college and medical school.

The Program in Biomedical Laboratory and Clinical Sciences offers students a sound undergraduate curriculum, coupled with technical preparation in health services, biotechnology or biomedical research. Students will study data gathering and analysis, and the use of isotopes, laboratory equipment and computers. They also will receive specialized training with the light microscope and electron microscope and study tissue culture techniques, medical chemistry and microbiology.

This year, two special courses, "Medical Terminology and Microcomputing" and "Introduction to Biomedical Laboratory Sciences," will be conducted at BUSM. The rest of the courses will be held at Metropolitan College. In addition to classroom study, students will participate in a special externship program. These "hands-on" experiences will take place at clinical, industrial and research settings in the Boston area.

For more information, call Constance Phillips, program director, at 638-5097 (x5097).

Sherman sworn in as member of state's Public Health Council

Albert Sherman, director of special services, recently was sworn in as a member of the Massachusetts Public Health Council by Governor Michael Dukakis.

The Council, the governing body of the Department of Public Health, acts on a variety of health-related matters including: Departmental appointments; licensing of health-care facilities; enforcement of the food, drug and health laws; and the determination of need process for building, expanding and renovating health-care facilities in the Commonwealth.

Sherman has been a registered pharmacist since 1960 and prior to assuming his position three years ago, had been director of Materials Management at the University Hospital. Before that he had managed several pharmacies in the Boston area.

Sherman serves as a consultant on controlled substances and health-related matters for the Boston Police and Fire Departments and teaches a course on the pharmacology of controlled substances at the Boston Police Academy.



DISCUSSING PROGRAM: Shown here discussing the Exchange Program are, from left to right, Selwyn Broitman, Ph.D., a professor of microbiology, Dean Marcel Eliakim, Dean John Sandson and Leonard Gottlieb, M.D. (Photo by Lucy Milne, BUSM Educational Media)

Department of Pediatrics Kids Fund raises more than \$20,000 in first year

The Kids Fund, organized by faculty and staff members in BUSM's Department of Pediatrics at Boston City Hospital to help meet special needs of pediatric patients at BCH, has raised more than \$20,000 in its first year. The Fund is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization available to assist families of patients as well, according to Robert Vinci, M.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics and assistant director of the House Officers' Training Program at BCH.

The Kids Fund received donations after being mentioned on a WCVB-TV's (Channel 5) "Chronicle" story on BCH; more donations were received from the 1985 BCH Road Race and Monster Dash. The organization plans to use some of the funds to improve the waiting areas in the Pediatric Primary Care and Teen and Tot Clinics at BCH, and will purchase a VCR for showing educational and recreational programs for the children. Other items purchased with the donations have included: a CPR Baby for instructional use with families; a refrigerator for a family who could not afford one and whose children were admitted to BCH for treatment of acute malnutrition; and a high chair for child whose wheelchair-bound mother had polio and could not feed the child safely.

Donations may be sent to the Kids Fund in care of Vinci in the Department of Pediatrics, Children's-4, Boston City Hospital, 818 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118.

Eleven faculty members receive research support grants

Eleven BUSM faculty members received research support during 1986-87 from a federal Biomedical Research Support

Grant (BRSG) to BUSM, according to Edward W. Pelikan, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pharmacology and chairman of the Faculty Grants Committee. BRSG funds, which are distributed annually by the National Institutes of Health, are based on an institution's level of federal funding for the previous year.

The awardees and their research topics are: George Griffing, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, 19-nor-deoxycorticosterone in hypertension; James Head, Ph.D., an associate professor of physiology, studies of calmodulin; Alez Kozulin, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychiatry, schizophrenic language; Wayne LaMorte, M.D., an assistant research professor of surgery, effects of diet on gallstone formation; L. Bruce Pearce, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pharmacology, pre-synaptic neuromodulation by Substance B; Kathy Svoboda, Ph.D., an assistant professor of anatomy, epithelial cell metabolism; Douglas Taylor, Ph.D., an instructor in microbiology, tumor lipolytic factor; Keith Tornheim, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biochemistry, free calcium and glycolysis; Linda Wright, Ph.D., an assistant professor of anatomy, sympathetic preganglionic nuclei; Glen Zamansky, Ph.D., an assistant professor of microbiology, ultraviolet light and cytoskeletal damage; and Steven Zeisel, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of pathology, choline production *in vivo*.

Information about BRSG research support and eligibility can be obtained from Pelikan in L-603 at x4300 (638-4300).

McKinlay receives NIH MERIT Award for contribution to science

John B. McKinlay, Ph.D., a research professor of medicine and a professor of sociology, is the first social scientist to receive the National Institutes of Health's Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) Award. The Award initially is for five years. McKinlay, whose research is entitled "Pathways to the Provision of Care for Frail Elders," also is director of New England Research Institute, a Watertown-based research company that he founded.

The MERIT Award recognizes prior NIH grant recipients for their contributions to science. The Award extends the period of research support and reduces the administrative requirements to extend the grant.

Berman receives three-year grant to conduct immunology research

Jeffrey Berman, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at the School, has received a \$225,000 three-year grant from RJR Nabisco, Inc. for his research into interleukin 2 receptors in the lung.

Berman is one of three researchers in the nation selected as 1987 RJR Nabisco Research Scholars. He will receive \$75,000 per year. The award was instituted last year to support developing scientific talent.

Zeisel, Pomfret receive grants for research on lecithin, fatty liver

Steven Zeisel, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor of pathology and pediatrics at BUSM, has received a \$45,000 Lecithin Industry Award in recognition of his research advancing the understanding of lecithin and phospholipids in medical science.

Elizabeth Pomfret, a graduate student who is working in Zeisel's laboratory in the Department of Pathology, has been awarded a fellowship from the American Liver Foundation. The fellowship will support her work on the pathogenesis of fatty liver.

New dining facilities and bookstore to open in January at BUSM

The cafeteria in the School of Medicine is being upgraded and should be completed in January 1988, according to William Gasper, recently appointed assistant vice president for business affairs. Also, a new bookstore, adjacent to the dining facility, is scheduled to open early in September.

During the summer, new food-service equipment and seating areas will be provided in the dining area. Under the new operation, breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served and hours are expected to be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Catering services also will be available for meetings and functions.

The menu will feature soup, deli sandwiches, fruit and salad platters, carved roast meats, specialty salads, an omelette/stir-fry bar, a pasta bar, freshly baked goods and fancy deserts. Boston University Campus Dining Services will operate the new dining facility.

The new bookstore will stock general trade books, professional reference books, magazines, paperbacks, bargain and travel books, school and office supplies, gifts, stationery, insignia merchandise, snacks and candies. Textbook requirements for the Medical Campus also will be handled through the new bookstore. The 660 Corporation, which operates the Boston University Bookstore in Kenmore Square, will manage the new bookstore.

Office of Informational Services renamed Office of Publication Services

The Office of Informational Services, which publishes *News & Notes* and other BUSM and the University Hospital publications, has been renamed the Office of Publication Services, effective immediately.

According to Donald R. Giller, director of Marketing and Public Affairs, the new name is meant to clarify the role of the Office, emphasizing that it specializes in all forms of printed communications designed for informational or marketing purposes.

The Office focuses on two types of written communica-

tion: periodicals (e.g., *Centerscope*, *Research in Progress*, *News & Notes* and various newsletters), and brochures and other special publications related to marketing or development communications. Publication Services is one of three units within the Department of Marketing and Public Affairs. The Department consists of the following offices:

- Office of Media Relations--focuses on contacts with media representatives. Kate Nixon is the Office's director and Norm Sherman is assistant director. The Office is located in Vose-217, x8491 (638-8491).
- Office of Marketing Services--responsible for coordinating directed marketing campaigns. Virginia Trainor is director of the Office, which is located in the Doctors Office Building, room 1107, x8159 (638-8159).
- Office of Publication Services--emphasizes periodicals and preparation of marketing materials. Owen McNamara is director, Marge Dwyer is associate

director, and Cynthia Koury is staff editor for BUSM. The Office is located in the Doctors Office Building, room 600, x8482 (638-8482).

Briefly Noted

Michael Grodin, M.D., director of the Program in Medical Ethics at BUSM and the School of Public Health, and an associate professor of public health (environmental health and microbiology), was elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors of the American Society of Law and Medicine, effective July 1....**Garry Fitzpatrick, M.D., F.A.C.S.**, an associate professor of surgery and an associate visiting surgeon at UH and BCH, recently spoke on "The Metabolic Needs of Head Trauma Victims" to clinicians at a dinner and lecture sponsored by the New Medico Head Injury System in Portsmouth, N.H.

News & Notes is a publication of the Office of Publication Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, please contact editor Cynthia Koury, x8482 (638-8482) or write to her at the Office of Publication Services, DOB-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

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